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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/020,717

12/13/2001

Kelan Craig Silvester

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01/12/2005

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF,  
TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP  
Seventh Floor  
12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

EXAMINER

LEE, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2112

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/020,717

Applicant(s)

SILVESTER, KELAN CRAIG

Examiner

Christopher E. Lee

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/13/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Substitute "A apparatus" by --An apparatus-- in line 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. [US 6,473,789 B1; hereinafter Chen].

*Referring to claim 1*, Chen discloses an apparatus (i.e., an embodiment of Chen's invention shown in Fig. 1) comprising: a first computer (i.e., desktop computer 20 of Fig. 1) comprising a first processor (i.e., CPU 21 of Fig. 1) housed in a first case (i.e., a case of said desktop computer), said first processor to execute a first set of instructions (See col. 2, lines 54-58; i.e., said desktop computer executes its own software); a second computer (i.e., notebook computer 10 of Fig. 1) comprising a second processor (i.e., CPU 11 of Fig. 1) housed in a second case (i.e., a case of said notebook computer), said second processor to execute a second set of instructions (See col. 2, lines 49-54; i.e., said notebook computer executes its own software); a docking connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device of the Invention 100 of Fig. 1) coupled to said first case and said second case (i.e., said Computer Coupling Device 100 is coupled to said desktop computer 20 and said notebook computer 10 in Fig. 1), said docking connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device) to mate (i.e., connect) said first computer and said

second computer together (See col. 3, lines 2-5), said docking connector to propagate electrical signals between said first processor and said second processor when said first case is physically docked to said second case (See col. 3, line 54 through col. 4, line 15), and wherein said first computer and said second computer operate together as a multiprocessor computer system (i.e., dual-CPU parallel processing system) when said first computer and said second computer are mated (See col. 4, lines 16-27), and wherein said first computer and said second computer operate as separate computers when said first computer and said second computer are not mated (See col. 1, lines 18-26; i.e., wherein in fact that these two computer types (e.g., notebook computer and desktop computer) are based on different specifications and standards inherently anticipates that said first computer and said second computer operate as separate computers when said first computer and said second computer are not mated).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen [US 6,473,789 B1] as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kilp [US 6,463,142 B1].

*Referring to claim 2*, Chen discloses all the limitations of the claim 2 except that does not teach said first computer comprising a first wireless transceiver to send and receive wireless communications. Kilp discloses a messaging system (See Abstract), wherein a first computer (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) comprising a first wireless transceiver (e.g., transceiver of Bluetooth standard, Home RF standard, or IrDA link) to send and receive wireless communications (See col. 3, lines 21-30 and col. 6, line 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said messaging system, as disclosed by Kilp, in said apparatus, as disclosed by

Chen, for the advantage of providing automatic proxy services for routing data messages, and thus users of said apparatus (i.e., messaging system) need not worry about manually changing between said first computer and said second computer (i.e., stationary and mobile) connections to said communications (i.e., message service) when leaving the office area (See Kilp, col. 6, lines 48-58).

*Referring to claim 3*, Kilp teaches said second computer (i.e., mobile unit 20 of Fig. 1) comprising a second wireless transceiver (e.g., transceiver of Bluetooth standard, Home RF standard, or IrDA link) to send and receive wireless communications (See col. 3, lines 21-30 and col. 6, lines 62-64).

*Referring to claim 4*, Kilp teaches said first computer (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) and said second computer (i.e., mobile unit 20 of Fig. 1) communicate together wirelessly (See col. 3, lines 21-30) when said first computer and said second computer are not mated together (in fact, said mobile unit and said stationary unit are not mated (viz., physically disconnected) when the communication link is based on Bluetooth/RF standards, IrDA link).

*Referring to claim 5*, Chen teaches said first computer (i.e., desktop computer 20 of Fig. 1) comprising a keyboard mounted within said first case (i.e., KBD of said desktop computer 20 in Fig. 1), said keyboard (i.e., KBD) to receive user input (i.e., keyboard input via said KBD of said desktop computer 20 in Fig. 1).

6. Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen [US 6,473,789 B1] in view of Kilp [US 6,463,142 B1] as applied to claims 2-5 above, and further in view of Armitage et al. [US 6,157,958 A; cited by the Applicant; hereinafter Armitage].

*Referring to claim 6*, Chen, as modified by Kilp, discloses all the limitations of the claim 6, except that does not expressly teach said first computer is a base computer, said base computer to serve as a bottom half of a notebook computer system.

Armitage discloses a modular tablet computer system (See Abstract and Figs. 1 and 2), wherein a first computer (i.e., base unit 104 of Figs. 1 and 2) is a base computer (See col. 9, lines 16-35), said base

computer to serve as a bottom half of a notebook computer system (i.e., a bottom half of said modular tablet computer system; See Figs. 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied said modular tablet computer system, as disclosed by Armitage, to said apparatus, as disclosed by Chen, as modified by Kilp, for the advantage of providing a housing for said apparatus (i.e., computer system) that provides an ergonomic structure and facilitates mobility of said apparatus (i.e., system; See Armitage, col. 2, lines 33-35).

*Referring to claim 7*, Armitage teaches said second computer (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a display screen (i.e., display unit 118 of Fig. 1) mounted within said second case (See col. 4, lines 30-60), said display screen to output information (i.e., display screen output information via said display unit 118 in Fig. 1).

*Referring to claim 8*, Armitage teaches said second computer (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) is a tablet computer (See col. 4, lines 30-42), said tablet computer to serve as a top half of said notebook computer system (i.e., a top half of said modular tablet computer system; See Figs. 1 and 2).

*Referring to claim 9*, Chen teaches that said first processor (i.e., CPU 21 of Fig. 1) is a primary processor for said multiprocessor system (i.e., dual-CPU parallel processing system) when said first computer and said second computer are mated together (See col. 4, lines 16-33 and col. 6, lines 5-8), and wherein said keyboard (i.e., KBD of said desktop computer 20 in Fig. 1) and said display screen (i.e., display device resource on said notebook computer 10m in Fig. 1) are controlled by said first processor (i.e., CPU 21 of Fig. 1; in fact, the desktop computer can gain access to the devices on the notebook computer, in other words, the display device on the notebook computer being controlled by the CPU of the desktop computer after gaining the access of the display device resource; See col. 2, lines 60-62), said keyboard to send any input received to said first processor (i.e., keyboard input via said KBD of said

desktop computer 20 being sent to said CPU 21 in Fig. 1) and said display screen (i.e., display device on said notebook computer) to display data from said first processor (in fact, accessed said display device on said notebook computer being able to output said KBD of the desktop computer input).

*Referring to claim 10*, Kilp teaches said first computer (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) is coupled to a network (i.e., network 30 of Fig. 1), said first computer to operate as a server (i.e., base unit; See col. 1, lines 7-10) when said first computer (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) and said second computer (i.e., mobile unit 20 of Fig. 1) are not mated together (i.e., no communication link; See col. 5, lines 14-16), and resources of said first computer are available (See col. 5, lines 17-31).

7. Claims 11-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armitage [US 6,157,958 A] in view of Chen [US 6,473,789 B1].

*Referring to claim 11*, Armitage discloses a mobile computer system (i.e., modular tablet computer system in Figs. 1 and 2) comprising: a tablet personal computer (PC) (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen (i.e., display unit 118 of Fig. 1; See col. 8, lines 10-12), a first processor (i.e., microprocessor 304 of Fig. 3), and a first wireless transceiver (i.e., radio frequency card 316 of Fig. 3); a base computer module (i.e., base unit 104 in Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a keyboard (i.e., keyboard unit 106 of Fig. 1), a second processor (i.e., microprocessor 414 of Fig. 4), and a second wireless transceiver (i.e., radio frequency network card 406 of Fig. 4); and a mating connector (i.e., support interface structure) to couple together said tablet PC and said base computer module (See Abstract, lines 5-11).

Armitage does not teach said tablet PC and said base computer operate together as a multiprocessor computer system while said tablet PC and said base computer module are physically mated, and wherein said tablet PC and said base computer module operate separately as stand-alone computers while said tablet PC and said base computer module are not mated together.

Chen discloses a notebook/desktop docking system (See Abstract and Fig. 2), wherein a mating connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device of the Invention 100 of Fig. 1) to couple (i.e., connect) a tablet PC (i.e., notebook computer 10 of Fig. 1) and a base computer module (i.e., desktop computer 20 of Fig. 1) together (See col. 3, lines 2-5) as a multiprocessor computer system (i.e., dual-CPU parallel processing system) while said tablet PC and said base computer module are physically mated (See col. 4, lines 16-27), and wherein said tablet PC (i.e., notebook computer) and said base computer module (i.e., desktop computer) operate separately as stand-alone computers while said tablet PC and said base computer module are not mated together (See col. 1, lines 18-26; i.e., wherein in fact that these two computer types (e.g., notebook computer and desktop computer) are based on different specifications and standards inherently anticipates that said tablet PC and said base computer module operate separately as stand-alone computers while said tablet PC and said base computer module are not mated together).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said mating connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device), as disclosed by Chen, to said mating connector, as disclosed by Armitage, for the advantage of allowing said respective microprocessors (i.e., CPUs) of said coupled computer systems to be combined to performed the function of dual-CPU parallel processing (See Chen, col. 1, lines 50-54).

*Referring to claim 12*, Armitage teaches said LCD screen comprising a touch-sensitive panel covering said LCD screen, said touch-sensitive panel to receive user input (See col. 8, lines 10-25).

*Referring to claim 13*, Armitage teaches said tablet PC (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) and said base computer module (i.e., base unit 104 in Figs. 1 and 2) mate together into a notebook computer form factor (See Figs. 1, 2, 18A-C and 19A-C), said tablet PC (i.e., tablet computer system) as an upper half of a notebook case (i.e., a top half of said modular tablet computer system; See Figs. 1 and 2) and said base computer module (i.e., base unit) as a bottom half of said notebook case (i.e., a bottom half of said modular tablet computer system; See Figs. 1 and 2).

*Referring to claim 14*, Chen teaches said first processor (i.e., CPU 11 of Fig. 1) and said second processor (i.e., CPU 21 of Fig. 1) operate together during a multiprocessor mode (i.e., dual-CPU parallel processing mode) to execute instructions and process data (See col. 4, lines 16-27).

*Referring to claim 15*, Armitage teaches said (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) and said base computer module (i.e., base unit 104 in Figs. 1 and 2) communicate with each other wirelessly to share data (See col. 9, lines 15-53).

*Referring to claim 17*, Armitage discloses a multiprocessor computing system (i.e., modular tablet computer system in Figs. 1 and 2) comprising: a first computing unit (i.e., base unit 104 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a first processor (i.e., microprocessor 414 of Fig. 4) and a second computing unit (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a second processor (i.e., microprocessor 304 of Fig. 3), said first and second computing units designed to mate together to form a singular combined computing unit (i.e., modular tablet computer system; See col. 3, line 66 through col. 2, line 17), wherein said first and second computing units are physically coupled together during a mated mode (i.e., coupled system; See Figs. 1 and 2), and wherein said first and second computing units are not physically coupled together during a detached mode (i.e., decoupled systems; See Fig. 6, in fact, said table computer system and said base unit are physically decoupled during said table computer system is separately used).

Armitage does not expressly teach that said first and second computing units operate together as a single computer during said mated mode, and said first and second computing units each operate as an individual computer during said detached mode.

Chen discloses a notebook/desktop docking system (See Abstract and Fig. 2), wherein a mating connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device of the Invention 100 of Fig. 1) to mate (i.e., connect) a first computing unit (i.e., desktop computer 20 of Fig. 1) and a second computing unit (i.e., notebook computer 10 of Fig. 1) together (See col. 3, lines 2-5) as a single computer (i.e., dual-CPU parallel processing system) during a mated mode (See col. 4, lines 16-27), and said first and second computing units each operate as an

individual computer during a detached mode (See col. 1, lines 18-26; i.e., wherein in fact that these two computer types (e.g., notebook computer and desktop computer) are based on different specifications and standards implies that said first and second computer systems each operate as an individual computer during a detached mode).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said mating connector (i.e., Computer Coupling Device), as disclosed by Chen, to said multiprocessor computing system (i.e., modular tablet computer system), as disclosed by Armitage, for the advantage of allowing said respective microprocessors (i.e., CPUs) of said coupled computer systems to be combined to performed the function of dual-CPU parallel processing (See Chen, col. 1, lines 50-54).

*Referring to claim 18*, Chen teaches that said first computing unit (i.e., desktop computer 20 of Fig. 1) is a master and takes primary control of system resources during said mated mode (See col. 4, lines 16-33 and col. 6, lines 5-8).

*Referring to claim 19*, Armitage teaches said first computing unit (i.e., base unit 104 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a first wireless transceiver (i.e., radio frequency network card 406 of Fig. 4) and said second computing unit (i.e., tablet computer system 102 of Figs. 1 and 2) comprising a second wireless transceiver (i.e., radio frequency card 316 of Fig. 3), said first and second computing units (i.e., base unit and tablet computer system) to communicate via said first and second wireless transceivers to transfer and share data (See col. 9, lines 15-53).

8. Claims 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armitage [US 6,157,958 A] in view of Chen [US 6,473,789 B1] as applied to claims 11-15 and 17-19 above, and further in view of Kilp [US 6,463,142 B1].

*Referring to claim 16*, Armitage, as modified by Chen, discloses all the limitations of the claim 16 except that does not teach that said base computer module is coupled to a network, said base computer

module to operate as a server machine on said network, and said base computer to further provide network access to said tablet PC.

Kilp discloses a messaging system (See Abstract), wherein a base computer module (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) is coupled to a network (i.e., network 30 of Fig. 1), said base computer module (i.e., stationary unit) to operate as a server machine on said network (i.e., base unit on said network; See col. 1, lines 7-10), and said base computer module (i.e., stationary unit) to further provide network access to a tablet PC (i.e., mobile unit 20 of Fig. 1; See col. 5, lines 14-31).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said messaging system, as disclosed by Kilp, in said mobile computer system (i.e., modular tablet computer system), as disclosed by Armitage, as modified by Chen, for the advantage of providing automatic proxy services for routing data messages, and thus users of said apparatus (i.e., messaging system) need not worry about manually changing between said base computer module and said tablet personal computer (i.e., stationary and mobile) connections to said communications (i.e., message service) when leaving the office area (See Kilp, col. 6, lines 48-58).

*Referring to claim 20*, Armitage, as modified by Chen, discloses all the limitations of the claim 16 except that does not teach that said first computing unit is coupled to a network, said first computing unit to provide network access to said second computing unit during said detached mode via wireless communications.

Kilp discloses a messaging system (See Abstract), wherein a first computing unit (i.e., stationary unit 15 of Fig. 1) is coupled to a network (i.e., network 30 of Fig. 1), said first computing unit (i.e., stationary unit) to provide network access to a second computing unit (i.e., mobile unit 20 of Fig. 1) during a detached mode (i.e., no communication link; See col. 5, lines 14-16) via wireless communications (e.g., via cellular protocol; See col. 3, lines 40-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said messaging system, as disclosed by Kilp, in said multiprocessor computing system (i.e., modular tablet computer system), as disclosed by Armitage, as modified by Chen, for the advantage of providing automatic proxy services for routing data messages, and thus users of said multiprocessor computing system (i.e., messaging system) need not worry about manually changing between said first computing unit and said second computing unit (i.e., stationary and mobile) connections to said communications (i.e., message service) when leaving the office area (See Kilp, col. 6, lines 48-58).

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ito et al. [US 6,687,778 B2] disclose peripheral device for information processing.

Kobayashi [US 2002/0002056 A1] discloses system and method for discriminating a particular radio communication network among a plurality of radio communication networks.

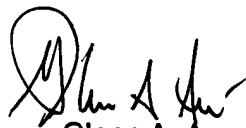
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-3637. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H. Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher E. Lee  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2112

cel/ 

  
Glenn A. Auve  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100